

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 2, 4, and 10 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 10 have been amended. Claims 2 and 4 are independent. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically at paragraph 22. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

The claims are hereby amended, obviating the rejection of claims 2, 4, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly directed to subject matter which was not described in the specification as to enable one skilled in the art to make or use the invention.

Applicants submit that “the entire surface for facing said tape magnetic recording medium is a smooth flat surface placed within a cylindrical drum surface”, as recited in claim 1, is described in the specification as to enable one skilled in the art to make or use the invention. Specifically, the feature is described in the specification in paragraphs 18 and 19.

Applicants submit that “an entire surface for facing said tape magnetic recording medium is a smooth flat surface or a smooth curved surface having a curvature less than a

curvature of a rotary drum that is placed within a cylindrical drum surface", as recited in claims 2 and 4, is described in the specification at paragraphs 18, 19, and 22.

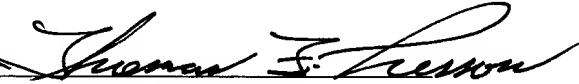
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800